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04/03/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
 APRIL 3, 2012 MEETING

SPY POND COMMITTEE
 Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Brad Barber, David Donahue, Bill Eykamp, Jacob Friis, Elizabeth Karpati, Harriet Noyes, Steve Ricci, Stroker Rogovin. Student guests: Jay C. Loshin, V.Lu.
 Facilitator: Jacob Friis Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, May 1, June 5, Aug. ?? (tentative), Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4. Town Hall Annex, first floor.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as presented.
- Jacob reported that outdated material has been removed from the website.
- Phragmites:
 - Brad has looked at the cleared area in Kelwyn Manor Park and reports that it looks plantable as the dead roots appear to be rotting. He recommends getting some of both kinds of native seed mix, for moist soil and for shallow water, and doing replanting on a small scale to see how it works, then doing the big areas next year. Some cattails from the patch near the Kelwyn Manor beach could be transplanted.
 - Bill noted that the water level in the pond has been a little higher for the past year or so than in previous years.
- NOIs: Cori Beckwith (Con Com) is ready to close up those that have been replanted. Two abutters want to keep their NOIs open to allow further treatment. For Elizabeth Island the current NOI should be closed and a new one taken out under Mass Audubon if necessary.
- The students represent a group looking for sustainable environmental projects. Ideas:
 - The students thought about finding a way to screen debris like candy wrappers out of the stormwater that flows into the pond, either at the catchbasins or where the storm drains enter the pond. Such a project would have to be done in cooperation with the DPW, and it would require an arrangement to have the screening devices regularly cleaned.
 - Stroker suggested that the Spy Pond Committee could use help with setting up a Facebook page, and ongoing help with maintaining its Web presence.
 - We could also use help with maintaining our e-mail list.
 - Sandbar: Steve has learned about a dredge that can be rented for \$30,000 a month (could it be rented for a shorter period for less?) Since the sand comes off Rt. 2, disposal should be possible wherever any remaining sand that is swept off the highway is disposed of.
 - Board of Health: We have heard nothing further about what it plans to do about the microcystis algae problem. Elizabeth has seen a rather vague sign at Spy Pond Park that mentions the possibility of such a problem, but does not give a source for current information. An algae count can be done from a water sample with the help of a microscope; Ms. Lu noted that in California this is done in schools.
 - Aquatic Control Technologies has not yet inspected the pond this year. After it has done so, the committee would like to meet with ACT.
 - Jacob announced that he would like to resign as committee co-chair. Brad offered to take over.